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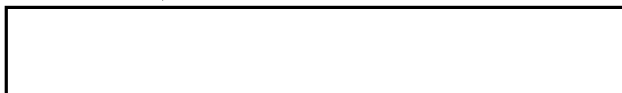
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
15 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Replacement of Chinese Communist
Ambassadors to the Orbit

REFERENCE:



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1. Reference cable reports that Chinese Communist ambassador to Moscow, Chang Wen-tien, informed the Swedish ambassador there that he was returning to Peiping to become foreign minister.

2. [redacted] may have misunderstood Chang, as Peiping's announcement of the diplomatic change clearly stated that the Chinese ambassador was returning to assume his duties as vice minister of foreign affairs. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai owes much of his present success to his ability to deal effectively with both Communist and non-Communist diplomats, and would probably be reluctant to give up the post.

3. There is a possibility that Chang may one day succeed Chou as foreign minister, should Chou feel the need to unburden himself of some of his responsibilities. In that case, Chang would be a good choice, although he would probably not be as effective as Chou. Chang, a member of the politburo of the Chinese Communist Party, has served as ambassador to Moscow since 1951. He was appointed to head the Chinese Communist delegation to the United Nations in 1950, and attended the Geneva conference last spring. In November, he attended the Soviet-sponsored European conference as Chinese Communist observer.

4. Peiping may plan to use Chang at the Afro-Asian conference in April or in a future appearance at the United Nations.

5. Peiping has also announced the appointment of a new ambassador to Poland, and a press item indicated that the Chinese ambassador in East Germany will also be replaced. Together with the appointment of Liu Hsiao to succeed Chang Wen-tien in Moscow, these changes will complete Peiping's replacement of ambassadors to Orbit countries which began last September.

State Dept. review completed

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6. Liu Hsiao, Communist China's new ambassador to Moscow, has had no known diplomatic experience and has been noticeably out of the news in recent years. He is an alternate member of the central committee of the Chinese Communist Party and thus is considerably below his predecessor in party standing.

7. Wang Ping-nan, Peiping's new ambassador to Warsaw, is an experienced diplomat who was a member of the Chinese Communist delegation to the Geneva conference. He has been director of the General Affairs Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was recently appointed "assistant to the foreign minister." There is no indication as to who is slated for the East German post.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
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